

LABOR DAY POLITICS.

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other it is afforded in the form of a world-open market to the home buyer of the raw material.

There can be no question as to the attitude of the democratic party upon the subject of free raw materials. Said President Cleveland in his recent letter to Congressmen Wilson, the author of the house tariff bill: "It must be admitted that no tariff measure can accord with democratic principles and promises, or bear a genuine democratic badge, that does not provide for free raw materials." Elsewhere in the same letter, and in the same connection, he wrote: "It is quite apparent that this question of free raw materials does not admit of adjustment on any middle ground, since their subjection to any rate of tariff taxation, great or small, is alike violative of democratic principle and democratic good faith."

Senator Hill, the leader of the democratic faction supposed to be at issue with the president on other points of democratic doctrine, concurs with him on this, and defending him from his seat in the senate reiterated in phrase quite similar to that of the president that free raw materials to our manufacturers was a cardinal demand of the democratic party. The democratic idea of tariff, then, is protection from the home producer of raw material, as against the republican idea of protection from the foreign seller of finished products. The democratic party would protect the manufacturer from the producer by enlarging the list of competitive sellers of the native product, while it, at the same time, protects the manufacturer from the home consumer by the levy of a tariff tax upon the foreigner seller of the finished article. I speak of this last form of protection because it exists in marked distinctness in some parts of the schedule of the democratic tariff bill which has just gone into effect, the rate in some instances being higher than under the republican measure which it superseded. The democratic party would, therefore, for example, protect the manufacturer of leathern goods from the home producer of the raw article by opening the home market to the hides of South America and Mexico, while at the same time protecting him from the competition of foreign sellers of tanned leather and boots and shoes by the levy of an importation tax; and it would, for another example, protect the manufacturer of woolen goods from the sheep grower of his own country by opening his market to the competition of Australian wool, while at the same time it maintains, though in a modified degree, for the manufacturers' benefit, the republican protective charges upon English woolen cloth and English woolen clothes.

Between republican protection in the sale of manufactured articles and democratic protection in the purchase of raw material, the American laborer, the producer, and likewise chief consumer, finds himself as between an upper and nether millstone. The one party taxes the laborer with the added price of what he buys upon the pretense of maintaining for him a higher market for what he sells; the other party depresses the price of what he sells upon the pretense of cheapening to him the cost of what he buys. The one first mentioned is a known imposter—proved to be such by its utter

failure to maintain either a market for the American producer, or employment even, much less wages, to the American laborer. The benefits of the other policy exist in theory and promise only—a theory which has shown no good results to the laborer elsewhere it has been tried; a promise to enforce which no law exists or can be framed, but which every instinct of cupidity and greed inspires to break. Think of a democratic mill owner or manufacturer magnanimously sharing with the American labor consumer the fruits of a good bargain he has just struck in the purchase of raw material. The possibility of such generous action is, I admit, within the bounds of conception, but its probability is as remote and as little to be expected as that a republican factory owner will advance his scale of wages out of the profits accruing to him from the exclusive market in which he sells.

There is a fatal mental inability in both democratic and republican parties to comprehend the new and strange conditions of our modern industrial and social life, an utter inability to cope with the new and vexing problems which have arisen out of the civilization of this latter day. Out of these and the necessary re-adjustments to be made in consequence of the same, grow the ills, in large part at least, from which we suffer. It was my fortune not long since to have traveled through a considerable portion of the republic of Mexico. I saw men there engaged in various agricultural operations by the use of tools and methods as primitive as any that were ever used at any period in the industrial history of man. I saw men plowing with forked sticks of wood. I saw them carting grain and merchandise over the highways in a rude wooden vehicle of two wheels—wheels not spoked, but made of solid circular blocks of wood. I saw them reaping wheat with the old style hand sickle—reaping hook, an invention of Adam, I believe. I saw them threshing grain by laying it on the hard ground while a little Mexican boy chased a pack of goats or burros around on it. You say to yourselves those are surely old-fashioned and primitive ways of work, and so they are; but do you realize, ladies and gentlemen, that you, yourselves, are not 100 years away from the use of just such old-time devices and awkward methods as those I have tried to describe, unless it be the stick for a plow. It is within the memory of the old men of this audience when all agricultural labor was carried on by the use of the most primitive kind of tools, and when the only combination of capital known to the average citizen was the partnership of a couple of his neighbors at the village store.

It is no exaggeration to say that the man of those times lived in a little world of his own, and with the neighbors of his school district could have separated himself from the balance of the hemisphere and yet maintained himself in health and comfort. Each community had within itself all the elements and resources and simple but varied industries necessary to independent living. Now we have begun a new life; we are living in a new world as it were, so radical and complete has been the revolution in our ways of working. I need not describe to you the changes from the simple ways of olden time, changes from the simple mechanical devices which everybody because of their simplicity and inexpensiveness could both use and own to the complicated and expensive engines

and institutions of modern industrial life.

Neither need I do more than advert to the fact that these changes have involved us in a world of inter-relations, have begotten a condition of dependence one upon another the like of which was undreamed of before. No man can live independent of his fellows now. Formerly his dependence was alone upon his neighbor, and upon him only for those little acts of neighborly kindness which were rendered without money or price; now his dependence is more upon the man who lives hundreds, perhaps thousands of miles away, than upon his nearest neighbor or closest friend. Everything which goes to sustain his physical life, which enables him to conduct his daily toil, which makes existence possible in this fierce competitive strife have become the monopoly of others—others to whom he sustains only the harshest and most exacting kind of contract relations. Formerly the tools of agriculture were the wagon and the plow; the tools of the worker in wood his plane and chisel and saw; the tools of the worker in iron his hammer and anvil and forge, and they were sufficient for all the purposes of industrial life. Now the terrible elements of physical nature which the gods can scarce bridle or control,—steam, electricity, compressed air, are utilized to do the work of man. But these, the common property of all, have been made the monopoly of the few, have been turned aside from the beneficent ends for which designed, to serve the selfish purposes of avarice and greed. In the face of the power exerted by the monopolists of these tremendous engines of industry and commerce the republican and democratic parties stand paralyzed,—hypnotized, as it were, unable to control it or give it direction and shape for common good.

Against the tyrannical exercise of this power the People's party in behalf of the laborers of the land protests. The failure to adapt the legislation of the country to the strange conditions which this new life has forced upon us is the cause in greater part of our industrial ills. A recognition of this fact I make the supreme test of intelligence in the discernment of causes and cures. The republican party would blind itself to the situation and make itself oblivious to the fact, but if forced to awaken to a realizing sense of the maladjustments of the time proposes for the improvement of the same nothing but the public policies which have been tested over and over again and utterly failed. The propositions of relief made by the democratic party reduced to their final analysis, are, let things alone, hands off, conditions will right themselves. The Populist party proposes as the only means to the desired end to utilize the power of the combined whole, to bring the power of the social mass to bear upon the rebellious individuals who thus menace the peace

and safety of the state. It says that the subjects of those monopolies and trusts are public in their nature, and that the powers exercised through them are in reality the functions and agencies of government itself. It would have the government, that is, the people, assert their rightful dominion over the same, and as the philosophic bases of its claim it prescribes at least two political formulae: One that it is the business of the government to do that for the individual which he can not successfully do for himself, and which other individuals will not do for him upon just or equitable terms; the other, that the industrial system of a nation, like its political system, should be a government of and for and by the people alone.

Cattle and Hogs Advancing.

We call the attention of our readers to the advertisement in this issue of the Larimer-Bridgford Live Stock Commission company, of the Kansas City stock yards.

The gentlemen comprising this firm have been in business at the Kansas City stock yards for nearly eight years, and are qualified in every way to handle stock consigned to them by the farmers and stockmen of Kansas. They are old advertisers in the ADVOCATE and we can cheerfully recommend them to anyone needing the services of good commission house. Give them a trial shipment and you will not regret it.

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THE MARKETS.

HORSES.

W. S. Tough & Son, managers of the Kansas City Stock Yards horse and mule department, report:

Extra draft.....	\$ 75 00 @ \$100 00
Good draft.....	50 00 " 75 00
Extra drivers.....	100 00 " 140 00
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Saddle good to extra.....	75 00 " 125 00
Southern mares and geldings.....	95 00 " 135 00
Western range, unbroken.....	15 00 " 30 00
Western ponies.....	10 00 " 15 00

MULES.

14 hands 4 to 7 years.....	\$30 00 " 40 00
14 1/2 " " ".....	40 00 " 55 00
15 " " ".....	50 00 " 90 00
15 1/2 " " ".....	55 00 " 105 00
16 to 16 1/2 " ".....	90 00 " 135 00

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Best green, salted full wool butcher r (estimated for the wool).....	14c to 15c
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Best dry flint butcher western wool skins.....	6c to 8c
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Coarse bright wool.....	10c to 12c
Coarse bright wool, western.....	8c to 10c
Quarter and three-eighths bright wool to 15c	
Quarter and three-eighths bright wool western.....	11c to 14c
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